

**Approved Minutes
FALLS CHURCH CITY TREE COMMISSION
April 19, 2006**

Present: Bruce Kulpan, Larry Dorr, Dave Eckert, David Chojnacky, Kathleen Nixon, Jill Spence (Arborist)

Call to Order 7:40 pm

APPROVAL OF MARCH, 2006 MINUTES – Nixon moved, Chojnacky seconded - full approval voted

Pipestem Lot Ordinance

Following a detailed discussion of the City Council's proposed Pipestem Ordinance, the Tree Commission responded to the Council's request for input. Nixon moved, Chojnacky seconded and the Tree Commission voted unanimously for the following:

MOTION: The Tree Commission recommends that the City Council pass legislation denying future development of pipestems in residential properties. The Tree Commission supports no additional residential pipestem properties because additional pipestem properties would result in the reduction of tree cover within the City, resulting in poorer air quality, reduced infiltration of rainwater into the ground, increased stormwater runoff and increased summer heat island temperature gain.

NON-COMPLIANT SITES

Following a general discussion of City businesses, such as the State Theatre, Bedo's Leatherworks, and Taco Bell that have been functioning while non-compliant with the City's Landscaping Ordinance and the required agreed upon site plan for over four years, Kulpan moved, Nixon seconded and the Commission voted unanimously for the following:

MOTION: The Tree Commission requests that the City Council directs the City Attorney to send an injunction order against the State Theatre, Taco Bell and Bedo's Leatherworks that have been out-of-compliance with the agreed upon Landscaping requirements of their respective approved site plans for over 4 years and due to past and current resistance, to require the businesses to close down until they come into compliance.

The Tree Commission reviewed further site plan landscaping violations at Burger King and International Motors. The Commission advised the City Arborist to enforce regulations at both sites.

THE BYRON

Ms. Spence discussed the current status of landscaping requirements for buffering the parking structure of the Byron from adjacent residents. Since there is insufficient buffer space to allow for adequate in-ground vegetation, Eckert recommended incorporating the 4,000 year-old concept of “Living Vegetated Walls” for the parking structure, which is being popularized in Western Europe and within the Low Impact Development field.

PEARSON SQUARE – Illegal Street Tree Damage and Removals

The Commission discussed the violations of City Street Tree damage and removal without proper notification to or approval by the City Arborist that resulted in part because of improper staff protocols within the Department of Environmental Services Engineering Division. Kulpan moved, Nixon seconded, the Commission voted unanimously:

MOTION: As a result of a Department of Environmental Services approved plan to install a sidewalk on South Maple Avenue that caused damage to four site plan approved trees and the removal of four City owned street trees with proper City Arborist notification or approval, the Tree Commission recommends the following:

- 1. The City Manager admonish the General Manager of the Department of Environmental Services for allowing her department approve the installation of a sidewalk and the removal and damage of City-owned and site plan approved trees without proper notification to and approval by the city Arborist, as required by City Code.**
- 2. The City Council requires the City Manager to ensure that the Department of Environmental Services staff follow City Code and have the City Arborist review and approve any damage to or removal of City-owned or siteplan-approved trees or landscaping resulting from direct work by this department or approvals of work by private contractors from this department.**

PURCHASE OF HAMLETT PROPERTY

The Tree Commission commends the City for purchasing the Hamlett Property for parkland. With the experience, however, of the City not properly acquiring the deed from the Fire Department a number of years ago when the City first acquired a portion of West End Park from them and then had of the City having to pay a second time to get the deed, Dorr moved, Nixon seconded and the Tree Commission voted unanimously for the following:

MOTION: The Tree Commission recommends the City ensure it receives the deed for the Hamlett Property to avoid having to pay for it twice, like it did for West End Park.

ARBOR DAY

Eckert reported that the 4 Arbor Day programs for the 144th celebration of the first Virginia Arbor Day (occurred in Falls Church are scheduled for the following times:

March 20 --- Mount Daniels – 10:30 am – general outdoor assembly

March 21 --- George Mason High School – 2:15 pm – student leaders program

March 22 --- Frady Park – 3:00 pm – Public celebration

March 28 --- T. J. School 9:00 am – 6 outdoor stations visited by every class.

ARBOR DAY COMMONS

Eckert reported that Brian Kane, Landscape Architect was commissioned by the Village Preservation and Improvement Society to develop a concept plan for the proposed Arbor Day Commons for Frady Park. It will be unveiled at the April 22 Arbor Day Program at Frady Park. The Commons will accentuate trees, landscaping and a gathering place, while minimalizing hardscape.

407-409 LINCOLN AVENUE PIPESTEM TREE SURVEY

Following a review and discussion of the preliminary tree survey for a proposed pipestem development, Kulpan moved, Dorr seconded and the Tree Commission voted unanimously for the following:

MOTION: The Tree Commission recommends that the City table the pipestem request at 407-409 Lincoln Avenue and all other similar submissions until the City amends the Pipestem Ordinance.

ADJOURN: 9:40 pm

These minutes are respectively submitted by Dave Eckert, Tree Commission Secretary.

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